

## FACT SHEET

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### ***Nature Conservation Amendment (Brushy Creek Conservation Area) Bill 2024***

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The *Nature Conservation Amendment (Brushy Creek Conservation Area) Bill 2024* establishes the Brushy Creek Conservation Area as reserved land in the class of conservation area.

The land constituting the proposed reserve site was purchased by the State Government in the 1999/2000 financial year.

The funding for this purchase came through the Private Forest Reserve Program, which was a Federal Government funding program for the purpose of purchasing land to establish conservation covenants.

In 2011 the State Government offered this property to the Tasmanian Land Conservancy to sell through their Revolving Fund program. The program effectively involves placing conservation covenants on land, selling the covenanted land, and using proceeds to support future purchases for the purpose of conservation.

If this had occurred, it would have fulfilled the State's obligation towards the Federal Government's Private Forest Reserve Program.

In 2015 the Tasmanian Land Conservancy completed its full proposal for the land. The TLC was informed by the State Government in 2020 that it no longer intended to transfer the land to the TLC.

The State Government's failure to uphold its commitment to formally protect this land is a significant misappropriation of Federal Government funding.

Threatened flora and fauna are present at the site include –

#### ***Brunonia australis* (Blue Pincushion)**

A Tasmanian listed (*Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*) small herb with a perennial rootstock. The species has been in considerable decline since settlement, primarily through loss of habitat from urban development, conversion to pasture or hobby-farming, and clearing for timber plantations. The species does not self-pollinate, which means small populations may not be viable.

#### ***Uncinia elegans* (handsome hooksedge)**

A Tasmanian listed (*Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*) perennial plant not found elsewhere in Australia.

### *Accipiter novaehollandiae* (Grey Goshawk)

A Tasmanian listed (*Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*) raptor. It is estimated that there are less than 110 breeding pairs in Tasmania. Prevention of habitat clearing and reducing risk of these birds coming into contact with infrastructure are advised for the species' recovery.

### *Aquila audax subsp. fleayi* (Tasmanian Wedge-tailed Eagle)

A Tasmanian (*Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*) and Australian (*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*) listed raptor found only in Tasmania. There are thought to be less than 300 breeding pairs left. Disturbance occurring even many hundreds of metres away from a nest can cause breeding birds to temporarily leave eggs or chicks at risk, or even to desert their nest site for years. Disturbances involving visible people or helicopters can be particularly threatening.

### *Litoria raniformis* (Green and Golden Frog)

A Tasmanian (*Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*) and Australian (*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*) listed frog. The management advice under the government's recovery plan for this species states "Protect all known habitat on Crown Land. Any newly discovered populations and their habitat should be protected."

### *Sarcophilus harrisii* (Tasmanian Devil)

A Tasmanian (*Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*) and Australian (*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*) listed marsupial. The species' population has declined by more than 80% over the past few decades. Activities that can be heard, smelt or seen by Tasmanian Devils can disrupt breeding, which can contribute to local population loss in heavily diseased areas. It is recommended that the needs of whole habitats be considered to protect the species.

### *Tyto novaehollandiae subsp. castanops* (Tasmanian Masked Owl)

A Tasmanian (*Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*) and Australian (*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*) listed owl. It has been estimated that 500 breeding pairs remain. It is recommended that clearing nesting, roosting and foraging habitat be avoided, as well as risks of collision with manufactured structures.

### *Aphelia pumilio* (dwarf fanwort)

A Tasmanian listed (*Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*) herb. It is particularly sensitive to forest clearing and competition from other plant species.

*Dasyurus maculatus subsp. maculatus* (Spotted-tail Quoll) has also been sighted in the area, and is Tasmanian (*Threatened Species Protection Act 1995*) and Australian (*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*) listed.

The site also contains dozens of species that are not listed species but are considered of conservation significance.

This bill would ensure this land is reserved for the purposes it was originally purchased, and contribute to the ongoing viability of several threatened species.